

PRESS RELEASE

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Email: <u>bvelickovska@usaid.gov</u>

U.S. assistance provides warm classrooms to the students of the "Ismail Qemali" primary school in Neraste

The American people, through USAID Primary Education Project, have invested more than \$42,000 for the installation of a central heating system in the primary school "Ismail Qemali" in the municipality of Tearce. USAID/PEP has worked closely with the municipality and the school community to successfully implement this activity during the past six months. USAID is part of the U.S. mission in Macedonia.

"The children are our future, and they deserve to have a good learning environment," said the Mayor of Tearce Rami Qerimi at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14, 2007. "Last winter, these students suffered through cold temperatures, smoky air and wood dust. The new central heating system will change the way they feel about their school and improve their performance," said Qerimi.

USAID/PEP will renovate up to 100 primary schools during its four years of implementation. The project's renovation component supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase the access and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov.